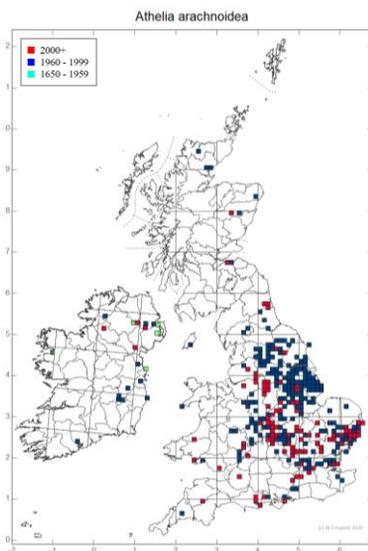


# Athelia arachnoidea



**Identification:** This aggressive pathogen of lichens and algae causes large areas of damage which can be spotted from a distance. The white edges of the damaged areas are covered in a cobweb-like growth of fungal hyphae. Tiny, pale-brown, spheres (sclerotia) can be formed on the surface. These darken with age.

**Similar species:** *Paranectria oropensis* can produce cobweb-like fungal growth but does not kill large patches of lichens. It is usually found with pale orange, spherical fruiting bodies that have a tiny red-orange spot on them. *Lichenotubeufia heterodermiae* produces hairy, pale creamy-brown, spherical perithecia on damaged off-white thalli of *Physcia* species but no cobweb-like growth.

**Habitat:** Growing over lichens and algae on bark.

**Distribution:** Most common in urban areas and in lichen communities dominated by *Physcia adscendens* and *Xanthoria parietina*. Always over bark.

**References:** <http://fungi.myspecies.info/all-fungi/athelia-arachnoidea>